

May 1996

IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD FOR THE IMPORTATION OF DOGS AND CATS INTO NEW ZEALAND
FROM SPECIFIED COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES RECOGNIZED AS COUNTRIES OR
TERRITORIES IN WHICH CANINE RABIES IS ABSENT OR WELL CONTROLLED**

** See section 7 ELIGIBILITY below for a full list of countries and territories to which this standard applies.

1. IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD

Pursuant to section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993, this is the import health standard for the importation of dogs and cats into New Zealand from specified countries and territories recognized as countries or territories in which canine rabies is absent or well-controlled.

2. IMPORT HEALTH PERMIT

2.1 An import health permit must be obtained before importation. Applications should be made to:

Chief Veterinary Office,
Ministry of Agriculture
PO Box 2526
Wellington.

2.2 The importer must supply the following information:

2.2.1 name and address of exporter;

2.2.2 breed, sex, age and microchip transponder/tattoo identification of the animal;

2.2.3 a laboratory result form, from a laboratory approved by the government veterinary authorities of the exporting country, which indicates that the animal to be imported was subjected to a neutralizing antibody titration test for rabies conducted at an official laboratory in accordance with one of the methods described in the OIE Manual of Standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines, and found to have at least 0.5 IU/ml or antibody in its serum. The laboratory result form must clearly identify the animal to be imported, using the microchip transponder/tattoo identification number of the animal;

2.2.4 a letter from the animal's veterinarian stating the date blood was taken from the animal for the laboratory testing detailed in 2.2.3 above;

2.2.5 the name of the dog and cat quarantine facility in New Zealand, registered under MAFRA Standard 154.02.09 Dog and Cat Quarantine Facilities, where the animal will be quarantined;

2.2.6 a letter from the operator of the above facility confirming availability of space for the animal(s) at the time of importation, which shall be not less than six months after the date of the blood sampling noted in the veterinarians letter in 2.2.4 above.

2.3 Following receipt of the required information, a single entry import health permit shall be issued and will be valid for the one month period starting from the date of availability of quarantine noted by the registered quarantine operators, provided that this date is not less than 6 months after the date of the blood sampling noted in the veterinarians letter in 2.2.4 above.

3. REVIEW OF IMPORT HEALTH STANDARD

The import health standard may be reviewed and amended when there is a change in policy, or as directed by the Chief Veterinary Officer.

4. DOCUMENTATION

The import health permit and all the required documentation must accompany the animals to New Zealand. The required documentation is detailed below:

- 4.1 Zoo-Sanitary Certificate;
- 4.2 Veterinary Certificate A;
- 4.3 Veterinary Certificate B;

****NOTE:** These certificates are included in these requirements. NZ MAF may also have attached copies to the import permit issued to the client.

5. EQUIVALENCE

The import health standard has been agreed as being suitable for trade between the exporting and importing countries. It is expected that the animal/s will meet the conditions in every respect.

Occasionally it is found that, due to circumstances beyond the importer's control, the animal/s or products do not comply completely with the requirements. In such cases an application for equivalence will be considered and issued at the discretion of the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture, but only if the following information is forwarded by the certifying government's veterinary authorities:

- 5.1 which clause/s of the import health standard cannot be met and how this has occurred;
- 5.2 the reason the animal/s are considered to be of an "equivalent health status" and/or what proposal is made to return the animal/s to an equivalent health status as set-out in the health conditions;
- 5.3 the reasons why it is believed that this proposal should be acceptable to the New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and the recommendation for its acceptance.

6. IMPORTER RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 All costs of selection, testing, treatment, transport, quarantine servicing and veterinary supervision must be borne by the importer or agent as appropriate.

6.2 The importer or agent must make all arrangements for transport and obtain necessary transit authorities from any third countries on the transport route.

7. ELIGIBILITY FOR IMPORTATION

7.1 The specified countries and territories recognized as countries or territories in which canine rabies is absent or well controlled and, as such, for which this import health standard is applicable are as follows:

Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Falkland Islands,

Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Greenland, Guam, Hong Kong, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Kuwait, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Macau, Malta, Peninsular Malaysia (excluding the designated rabies control area), Mauritius, The Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, Portugal, Reunion, Sabah, Sarawak, Seychelles, Spain, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent Grenadine, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Uruguay, Wallis and Futuna.

- 7.2 The animals must have been resident in the exporting country for 6 months prior to export, and the animals must not have been resident in official quarantine premises in the 60 days immediately prior to export.
- 7.3 Animals must not be more than 42 days pregnant at the date of shipment.
- 7.4 Animals must be more than 9 months old at departure.
- 7.5 The animal will not become eligible for importation into New Zealand until at least 6 months after the date of blood sampling for laboratory testing for serum neutralizing antibodies to rabies which has demonstrated a titer of at least 0.5 IU/ml, as detailed in a letter from the animal's veterinarian.
- 7.6 Animals imported directly from new Zealand into the country or territory of export may be re-exported to New Zealand with less than 6 months residency under the following additional conditions:
 - 7.6.1 the animal has resided continuously in the country or territory of export since being imported directly from New Zealand.
 - 7.6.2 the animal was vaccinated against rabies with an approved inactivated vaccine at least 1 month and not more than 6 months prior to leaving New Zealand when the dog was at least 3 months of age;
 - 7.6.3 the animal was identified by microchip prior to, or at the time of, rabies vaccination in New Zealand;
 - 7.6.4 the dog was subjected to a serum rabies neutralizing antibody titer test prior to leaving New Zealand, with satisfactory results (at least 0.5 IU/ml).

Import health permits issued under the above conditions will require proof to be provided that these requirements have been fulfilled. In this case a letter of equivalence may be issued exempting the animal from the requirements of Veterinary Certificate A sections 1, 4, 5, and 6 in the exporting country.

8. IDENTIFICATION

Each animal must be identified with a microchip or permanent tattoo and the identification details must be shown on the accompanying certification. It is recommended that microchip brands adopted by the International Standards Organization (ISO) are used. The importer shall ensure that a reader is made available to identify animals arriving in New Zealand quarantine.

9. HEALTH CERTIFICATION

- 9.1 The required health tests and treatments are stated in Veterinary Certificate A.

- 9.2 All serological tests must be conducted at a Government, or Government approved laboratory.
- 9.3 If the Veterinary Authority in the country of origin can show to the satisfaction of the New Zealand Chief Veterinary Officer that a disease which has a testing requirements (e.g. canine heartworm) does not occur in that country, then the Chief Veterinary Officer, NZ MAF, may consider the negotiation of an individual country import health standard taking into account the country specific health factors in the exporting country.
- 9.4 Recommendations for New Zealand dog owners importing a dog from countries where canine heartworm is endemic:
- 9.4.1 the dog should be tested by a veterinarian for heartworm 7 months after importation using the microfilariae concentration test, and an antigen test.
- 9.4.2 New Zealanders who take their dogs to countries where canine heartworm is endemic should ensure that the dogs are given monthly prophylactic treatment with avermectin drugs effective against the fourth stage larvae of *Dirofilaria immitis* which causes canine heartworm.

10. TRANSPORT TO NEW ZEALAND

- 10.1 If transported by air, the animal must be carried in an approved container which meets the IATA standards i.e. it is so constructed so that:
- it is strong enough to prevent the animal escaping,
 - the whole of one end open and covered with bars, weld mesh, or smooth expanded metal securely attached, to provide the main ventilation opening,
 - have ventilation openings on all sides totalling a minimum of 16% of the surface area of the four sides,
 - be nose and paw proof, i.e. only have ventilation openings of such size that it is impossible for the animal to protrude its nose or paws outside the container,
 - be large enough to permit the animal to stand in a natural position, turn around and lie down,
 - contain a fixed drinking bowl to which water can be provided without opening the container.
- 10.2 If consigned by sea (N.B. does not include transport on private yachts), the Master of the vessel must certify that the imported animal was confined on board and has had no contact with animals not of a tested equivalent health status at each port of call. Consignment by sea requires prior approval of the transport method and route by the Chief Veterinary Officer, NZ MAF.
- 10.3 No animals other than those qualified for entry into Australia or New Zealand are permitted to be carried on the aircraft or vessel.
- 10.4 The use of straw or hay as bedding is not permitted. Only sterilized peat, soft board or other inert approved product may be used.

- 10.5 The door of the transport container must be sealed with a government approved seal before the container is loaded into the aircraft or vessel in the country of origin. The number or mark on the seal is to be recorded in Veterinary Certificate B. The construction of the container and the placement of the seal must be such that the container cannot be readily opened without breaking the seal. If the container is opened during shipment it shall be re-sealed and a certificate detailing the circumstances provided by an Official Veterinarian, Port Authority or Captain of the aircraft. Instructions to this effect should be attached to the outside of the transport container.
- 10.6 The container must not be transhipped (change of aircraft or vessel) other than in a rabies free country or territory or in a country or territory listed in 7.1 above. Trans-shipment will require the specific authorization of the government veterinary authority of the country in which transshipment occurs.
- 10.7 The New Zealand Quarantine Service of the region in which the port of arrival is situated must be notified at least 72 hours before the expected time of arrival of any animal, giving the flight number/ship number and arrival time.

11. BIOSECURITY DIRECTION

- 11.1 On arrival in New Zealand a Quarantine Service Inspector shall, having verified that all the required documentation is present and completed correctly, issue a biosecurity direction which authorizes the movement of the imported dog or cat to the registered dog and cat quarantine facility named on the import health permit.
- 11.2 The veterinarian supervising the quarantine facility shall be notified by the Quarantine Service when the animal arrives in New Zealand.
- 11.3 The animal will be transported directly, by the quarantine operator or agent, using a transport method approved by the supervising veterinary officer of the quarantine facility, to the registered dog and cat quarantine facility named on the permit.

12. QUARANTINE IN NEW ZEALAND

- 12.1 Animals shall be held for a minimum period of 30 days in a quarantine facility registered to MAFRA Standard 154.02.09 Dog and Cat Quarantine Facilities and supervised according to MAFRA 154.02.09.01 Supervision of Dog and Cat Quarantine Facilities.
- 12.2 If the container is unsealed, the seal is broken, or if the accompanying documentation is unsatisfactory, the animal may, at the discretion of the Chief Veterinary Officer and at the expense of the importer, be exported, destroyed, or required to remain in quarantine for up to 180 days.
- 12.3 During quarantine the animal may be retested by a neutralizing antibody titration test for rabies antibody. If there is insufficient rabies antibody in the animal's serum (the WHO recommended level of 0.5 IU shall apply as a guideline), the animal may be re-vaccinated and/or re-tested, exported, destroyed or required to remain in quarantine for 180 days.
- 12.4 During quarantine, each imported dog may be tested for heartworm

due to *Dirofilaria immitis*, leptospirosis due to *Leptospira interrogans* var *canicola*, canine brucellosis (*Brucella canis*) and canine tropical pancytopenia (*Ehrlichia canis*). If the animal is positive to any of these tests it may be treated and re-tested. If the dog is subsequently considered to be infected it may be further treated, or exported, destroyed or detained in quarantine.

12.5 Within the first days of entering quarantine, each imported dog and cat must be efficaciously treated for ecto and endoparasites, including tapeworm using praziquantel.

12.6 The Chief Veterinary Officer, NZ MAF, reserves the right to review the quarantine period or conditions to be completed by any animal.

13. QUARANTINE CLEARANCE

The animal will be eligible for quarantine clearance after 30 days. The quarantine clearance will be given on the recommendation of the veterinary officer supervising the quarantine facility by the Chief Veterinary Officer, NZ MAF, when all conditions as specified in the MAFRA Standard 154.02.09: Standard for Dog and Cat Quarantine Facilities, have been met.

Health Certificate No. _____
(valid only if the USDA seal appears over
the certificate no.)

ZOO-SANITARY CERTIFICATE

Species: DOGS AND CATS

To: NEW ZEALAND

Import Health Permit No:.....

Exporting Country: United States of America

Ministry/Department: United States Department of Agriculture

Service: APHIS/Veterinary Services

Region:

I. IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS

1. Microchip/Tattoo (delete one) identification number:

.....

2. Anatomical site of microchip/tattoo (delete one)

.....

3. Name:

.....

.....

4. Breed:

.....

5. Sex:

.....

6. Date of Birth:

.....

7. Total number of animals:

.....

II. ORIGIN OF THE ANIMALS

1. Name(s) and address(es) of exporter(s):

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Health Certificate No. _____
(valid only if the USDA seal appears over
the certificate no.)

2. Place(s) of origin of animals:
.....
.....
3. Port of embarkation:
.....
- III. DESTINATION OF ANIMALS
1. Name and address of consignee:
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
2. Means of transport:
.....
.....
3. Port of arrival:
.....
.....

Health Certificate No. _____
(valid only if the USDA seal appears over
the certificate no.)

IV. SANITARY INFORMATION

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE A

I, a Government Veterinary Officer, or a veterinarian accredited to provide export certification on behalf of the Government Veterinary Service (hereafter called the Accredited Veterinarian), certify with respect to the animal/s identified in the attached Zoo-Sanitary Certificate:

1. After due enquiry, I am satisfied that the animal has been continuously resident in the country or territory of origin for the past 6 months prior to export and has not been in quarantine or under quarantine restrictions during the preceding 60 days.
2. After due enquiry and physical examination, I am satisfied that the animal will not be more than 42 days pregnant at the scheduled time of shipment.
3. After due enquiry and physical examination, I am satisfied that the animal will be more than 9 months old at the scheduled time of shipment.
4. The animal was vaccinated against rabies with an approved inactivated virus vaccine:

EITHER: 4.1 in the case of a primary vaccination, not less than 6 months and not more than one year prior to the scheduled date of shipment, when the animal was at least 3 months old:

Date of
vaccination:.....

OR: 4.2 in the case of a booster vaccination, not more than one year prior to the scheduled date of shipment;

Date of
vaccination:.....

(Delete either 4.1 or 4.2 above whichever is not applicable)

4.3 A copy of the rabies vaccination certificate for the most recent vaccination, and, in the case where the most recent vaccination was a booster, a copy of the rabies vaccination certificate for the previous vaccination, is attached.

5. The animal was identified with an implanted transponder/microchip or permanent tattoo, at least six months prior to shipment and before the most recent rabies vaccination.

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EITHER:      5.1  Microchip number:
                .....
                Anatomical site implanted:
                .....

OR:          5.2  Tattoo: .....
                Anatomical site:
                .....

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(Delete whichever of 5.1 or 5.2 is not applicable)

6. Within 30 days of the scheduled date of shipment the animal was subjected to a neutralizing antibody titration test for rabies conducted at an official laboratory in accordance with one of the methods described in the OIE Manual of Standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines, and found to have at least 0.5 IU/ml of antibody in its serum; a copy of the laboratory reports are attached.

Date of test:

(N.B. This test within 30 days of export is additional to the requirement of the test performed prior to import health permit application)

7. In the case of a dog, it has been tested and treated for canine heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) according to the following schedule:

7.1 within 30 days of departure one to two mls of blood were collected from the dog and tested negative to the following tests:

7.1.1 a microfilaria concentration test;
Date of
test:.....

7.1.2 and an antigen test (Diromail, Agen; Dirocheck, CSL; or VetRed, Agen)
Date of
test:.....

7.2 within 24 hours of export to New Zealand the dog was treated orally with one dose of ivermectin at 50 mcg/kg by the certifying veterinarian.
Date of treatment:.....

8. In the case of a dog, within 30 days prior to the scheduled date of shipment, the dog has been tested for the following diseases:

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8.1 *Brucella canis*

EITHER 8.1.1 using the slide agglutination test (microscopic
agglutination test), with a negative result in
each case;
Date of
test:.....

(Note: a rapid slide agglutination test using 2-
mercaptoethanol and a less mucoid (M-) variant of *Brucella*
canis as antigen (as described by Carmichael and Joubert,
Cornell Vet. 1987, 77: 3-12) is recommended to reduce the
incidence of false positive reactions.)

OR 8.1.2 using the AGID I (cell wall antigen) test. If
this test result is positive, then the dog has
been tested with negative results using the AGID
II (cytoplasmic antigen) test, for *Brucella*
canis.
Date of AGID I
test:.....
Date of AGID II test (if
applicable):.....

(Delete whichever of 8.1.1 or 8.1.2 is not applicable)

8.2 Leptospirosis using the agglutination-lysis test for leptospirosis
serotype *Leptospira canicola* with:

EITHER 8.2.1 negative results (negative is less than 50%
agglutination at 1:100);
Date of
test:.....

OR 8.2.2 where the first sample shows a positive titer of
not more than 1:400, a second sample collected
at an interval of not less than 14 days must
show no increase in the titer above that of the
first test;
Date of test
1:.....
Date of test
2:.....

OR 8.2.3 the dog has been treated with doxycycline at a
therapeutic dose rate for 14 consecutive days,
or dihydrostreptomycin at a therapeutic dose
rate for 5 days, during the 30 days prior to the
scheduled shipment.

Medication and dose
rate:.....
Dates of
treatment:.....

(Delete whichever of 8.2.1, 8.2.2 or 8.2.3 is not applicable)

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the certificate no.)

8.3 Canine ehrlichiosis using the indirect fluorescent antibody test
for *Ehrlichia canis* with;

EITHER 8.3.1 negative results:
Date of
test:.....

OR 8.3.2 positive results and the dog has been treated
with doxycycline at a dose rate of 10 mg/kg body
weight on 14 consecutive days during the 30 days
prior to the scheduled shipment.
Date of
test:.....
Dates of
treatment:.....

(Delete whichever of 8.3.1 or 8.3.2 is not applicable)

9. In the case of a dog and/or cat:

9.1 Within 30 days of the scheduled date of shipment, the animal was
subject to two fecal examinations, at least 14 days apart, using a
sensitive flotation procedure (able to detect 50 eggs per gram)
which was negative for hookworm eggs;

Date of first test:
.....
Date of second test:
.....

9.2 Within 21 days of the scheduled date of shipment the animal was
treated with praziquantel at a dose rate of 5 mg/kg body weight,
(or in the case of a heavy dog, at a rate not exceeding the
manufacturer's recommendations);
(Note: if praziquantel is not available bunamidine hydrochloride
at a dose rate of 50 mg/kg body weight may be substituted)

Date of treatment:
.....
Active ingredient and dosage used:
.....

9.3 Within 4 days of the scheduled date of shipment, the animal was
treated with an anthelmintic for intestinal parasites using
pyrantel pamoate, dichlorvos, or fenbendazole at recommended dose
rates:

Date of treatment:
.....
Active ingredient and dosage used:
.....

9.4 Within 4 days of the scheduled date of shipment, the animal was
treated with an insecticide dip or spray capable of killing ticks,
lice and fleas;

Date of treatment:
.....
Active ingredient:
.....

10. Within four days of the scheduled date of shipment, I examined the

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the certificate no.)

animal/s for export to New Zealand and found it/them to be free from
clinical signs of infectious or contagious diseases and free from
external parasites.

11. All serological tests were conducted at a Government laboratory or a
laboratory approved by the Government Veterinary Service of this
country.

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the certificate no.)

.....
i) Accredited Veterinarian or
ii) Government Veterinary Officer
(Delete whichever of i) or ii) is not applicable*)
.....
Date of signature

Name and address of
office:.....

.....
.....

*In the case of i) being applicable:

I,
.....
., a Government Veterinary Officer certify that
..... is
accredited for the purpose of providing veterinary export certification for
dogs and cats.

.....
Government Veterinary Officer Official stamp and date

Name and address of
office:.....

.....
.....

Health Certificate No. _____
(valid only if the USDA seal appears over
the certificate no.)

VETERINARY CERTIFICATE B

I, the Government approved Veterinary Officer at the port of export of the animal for export to New Zealand identified in the attached Zoo-Sanitary Certificate, certify that:

1. The animal was inspected and found to be healthy and fit to travel, and free from the clinical signs of infectious or contagious disease.
2. All the required documents were examined and found to be correctly completed in accordance with New Zealand import health standard requirements.
3. The animal was placed in a container that meets IATA standards, detailed in section 10.1 of the import health standard. The container was fastened with an official seal bearing the number or mark:
.....

.....
Government Veterinary Officer Official stamp and date

Name and address of
office:.....
.....
.....